



THE

KNIGHT

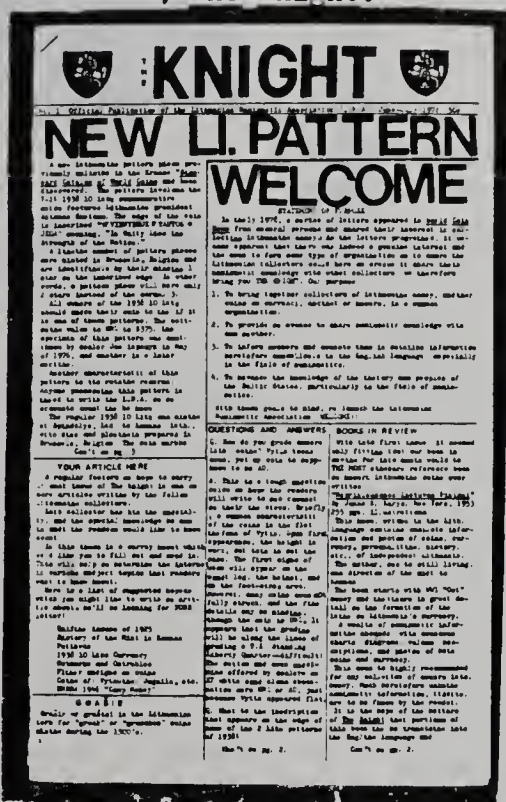


VOL. VI No. 1 Issue #31. The LITHUANIAN Numismatic Association. Frank Passic, Editor. June-July 1983

MORE PROPOSED COIN DESIGNS BY JUOZAS ZIKARAS !

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US!

By Frank Passic
Editor, The Knight.



Above: Issue No. 1. June-July 1978. Remember?...

Well, here we are---beginning our sixth year! It doesn't seem possible that five full years has passed since we organized the Lithuanian Numismatic Association. Since that crude beginning (i.e., the days of stick-on lettering and 14 inch long issues), Lithuanian numismatics has burst wide open, and has been making an impact on world numismatics ever since.

When preparing this article, this author was first going to list our prominent accomplishments. But where do you start? EVERY issue was an accomplishment! Examples: The Karys translations, the coin holders, the discovery of the Zikaras coin models, etc. So here is a brief story of how I started my Lith. collection and the events which followed...

I had been a coin collector most of my life, and active in my local Albion, Michigan coin club. In September 1977 at an ethnic festival in Jackson, MI, I noticed a Lithuanian booth, sponsored by Arunas &

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We are pleased to announce more proposed Lithuanian coin design plasters by the late sculptor Juozas Zikaras. Pictured above is a beautiful scene on the reverse of a 10 Litu. The design leads us to believe that this was intended for a 1925 dated coin, which carried the Vytis emblem and the date on the obverse. No 10 Litu coins were minted bearing the date 1925.

Featured is a Lithuanian woman seated amidst a bountiful spread of agricultural products of harvest. At the far center left in the distance appears the tops of buildings, which to this author resembles the Trakai castle.

Pictured on pg. 2 on top, is a 5 litai design of 1936, featuring Jonas Basanavičius. This differs from the adopted circulation design in several ways. The bust is more forward-facing; you can see the right side of his moustache and the right eyebrow area. On the circulation design, it is a side view only.

On this design, the coat area is curved outwards. The adopted circulation coin bears a straight cut-off on the coat, while the LNA 12-c (KM-Fn2) "J. ZIKARAS" pattern has the coat curving inwards.

Most important however, is the inscription. It reads, "5 PENKI LITAI 5." The circulation coin reads "5 LITAI 5." Also,

Continued on page 2...

2. ZIKARAS MODELS

Continued from pg. 1...

on each side appears a 3-leaf clover. The circulation coin bears a four-leaf ornamentation. Pictured below:



Pictured below is another 5 litai design, which is almost identical to the "J. ZIKARAS" pattern. Notice the bottom of the coat curves inward. No initials/name appears under the bust. This project is the closest to the finished circulation coin. It is noted for the fine textured beard.



THE KNIGHT Volume VI No. 1 Issue #31. The official publication of the Lithuanian Numismatic Association. Frank Passic, Tulsa, OK, EDITOR. Robert J. Douchis, Baltimore, MD, DIRECTOR. Subscription/membership to Vol. 6 a donation of \$10 or more (\$20 overseas airmail) for 6 bi-monthly issues. Write: LNA, P.O. Box 612, Columbia, Maryland 21045. Commercial advertising rates: business card insertion: \$5 issue, \$25 for 6 issues; 1/4 page \$12; 1/2 pg, \$15; 1 pg. \$20. Member C-117903 American Numismatic Association.

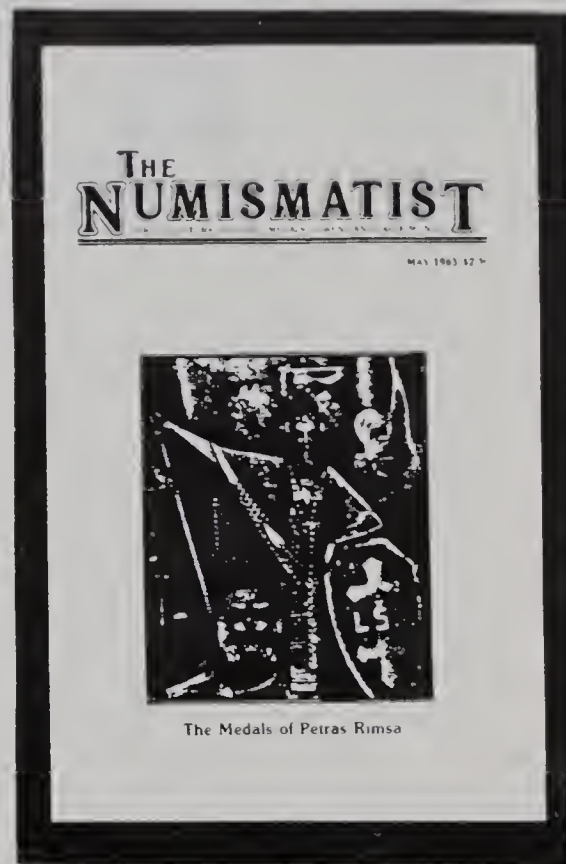
THE MEDALS OF PETRAS RIMSA

Illustrated at right is the front cover of the May issue of The Numismatist, which features as its cover story "The Medals of Petras Rimša," by Frank Passic.

This is the biggest spotlight ever given to Lithuanian numismatics in the world numismatic press, and this article is a must for the library of every Lithuanian collector! As you know, we've been presenting Rimša's memoirs here in The Knight.

If you haven't gotten your copy yet, we strongly encourage you to do so today. Cost is \$2.50 each, postpaid, by writing: The Numismatist, P.O. Box 2366, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80901.

In this same May issue, our Catalog of Early Lithuanian Coins I. Under the Grand Dukes is mentioned and discussed on pg. 904. Our discovery of the Juozas Zikaras coin models is announced on pg. 952. Truly a Lithuanian numismatic issue! Order your copy today!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US!

Virginia Udry (now LNA members...). At their booth was a publication, "Bridges" which gave fascinating information (in English) about Lithuania & Lithuanians.

With this still fresh in my memory, the next weekend was our local Albion coin club show, of which I was the chairman. At this show, dealer Hascall Pierce had two Y-9 1936 1 Centas coins in UNC for sale at \$6 each. I purchased them as a reminder of my Lithuanian heritage. These small coins were so innocent, so tiny...well, since I had that one denomination, it meant I had to get the rest of them, too! (\$\$\$\$).

In order to exhibit them, you have to know something about the coins. No one knew anything. Then I remembered reading in Bridges that there was a Lithuanian Museum in Chicago. A three hour drive away, upon arriving there, I was fascinated by the exhibits, and discovered in the gift shop a book about Lithuanian money entitled, Nepriklausomos... (whatever that meant). Thumbing through it, I must have bugged the librarian for a whole hour asking him to translate key portions, as I wrote down every word on hastily found scratch paper. The more I learned, the more interesting it got, and I certainly wanted to learn more! One thing I learned was the designer of the U.S. Lincoln Cent, Victor David Brenner, was from Lithuania!

Continued on page 4...

3 OSTRUBEL OF 1916 PICK R-123

3 Ostrubel

Date: April 17, 1916

Origin: Posen (Poznan)

Size: 144 x 90 mm.

Colors: Green, Brown

Varieties: A) Latvian word

"AISDEWU" has letter "s"

(looks like an "f" crossed.

B) Letter "s" uncrossed.

Known serial letters: Type

A) A,B,C,D,E,F.

Type B) H,K,M,N,O,P,Q,S,

T,U,V,W.

Printer: Giesecke & Devrient
in Leipzig.

Paper suppliers: Buhl Bros
(Baden); Louis Staffel (Witz-
enhausen); Schoeller & Bausch
(Neukaliss).

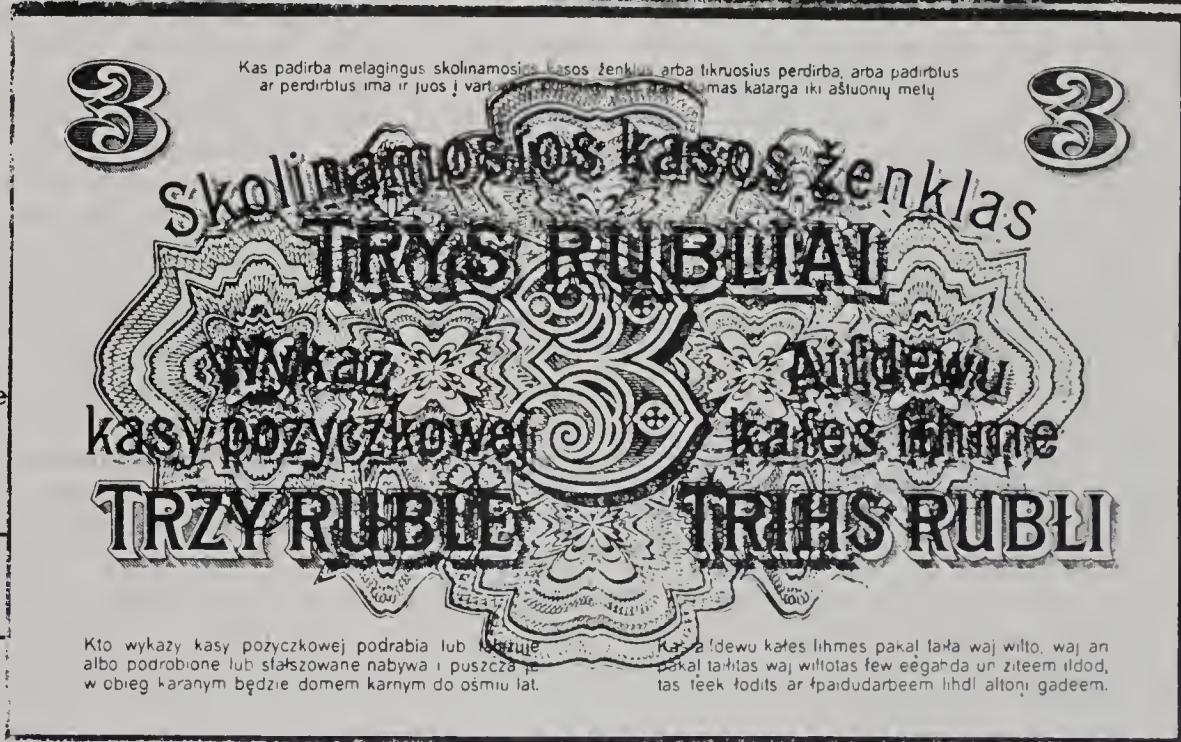
In looking back over five
years of The Knight, I was
embarrassed to discover that
not once have I ever featur-
ed the currency used in Li-
thuania from 1916 to 1922:
The OST money.

The German "Ostbank für
Handel und Gewerbe" (East
Bank of Commerce & Industry)
, located in Poznan (German:
Posen), was designated by the
Supreme Commander of the East
to issue currency for the Li-
thuanian area. To do so, it
established the "Darlehnskasse
Ost" (State Loan Bank East),
which was a special departm-
ent of the bank at Poznan,
rather than an independent in-
stitution.

In the summer of 1916, a
new currency unit was introdu-
ced: the Ostrubel, comprised
of one hundred kopeks. Dated
April 17, 1916, notes were
issued from Poznan and releas-
ed for circulation in Lithuania
on June 26, 1916. The bank
opened a branch office in Kau-
nas on the day of release, and
the notes were declared legal
tender on August 6, 1916.

In reality however, the new
money was actually fiat. They
were receipts to pay back in
"hard" money at a later date.

The value was set as thus:
1 Ostrubel=1 Czarist ruble. 1
Ostrubel=2 German Reichsmarks.
This meant that the German



Reichsmark was worth only half the value of an Ostrubel! In rea-
lity, 1 Ostrubel barely equalled more than 70 Russian kopecks!
The exchange rate made the Reichsmark look bad...

The Darlehnskasse Ost was completely severed from its parent
bank in Poznan on March 30, 1917, and moved completely to Kaunas
as a separate autonomous bank. It is estimated that by March 31,
1918, 165.65 million worth of Ostrubel notes had been placed
into circulation. The Darlehnskasse Ost then issued new currency
dated April 4, 1918, in Ostmark denominations, bearing new ex-
change values.

OBVERSE DESCRIPTION: The text is in German, the language of
those issuing the money. It states, "DARLEHNSKASSENSCHHEIN," mea-
ning "State Loan Bank Note." Below is the denomination, in words

Continued on next page...

4. 3 OSTRUBEL NOTE

and figures. Next appears the parent bank's name, followed by the issuing bank, "DARL-ŠENSKASSE OST." The signatures of the officials, "Michalowski, Hamburger, Kauffmann," appear neatly centered. The small print counterfeit warning on the bottom translates, "whoever Counterfeits the Loan Bank Notes, alters them, with intent to defraud, and places them into circulation, will be punished with eight years in jail." The serial letter & number appear twice: On the left, under the word Ostbank, and in the upper right corner. If you have a serial letter different than those listed on pg. 3, let us know!

REVERSE DESCRIPTION: The tri-lingual text (Lithuanian, Polish, Latvian) translates, "State Loan Bank Note," the denomination, and the same penalty warning as had appeared in German on the obverse. Placing Lithuanian first demonstrates that Ostrubels were issued primarily for ethnographic Lithuania. Polish was included because of ethnic Poles who lived in Lithuania. In Poland itself, the Germans issued "Marek Polskich" notes, dated 1916.

TRENDS: Pricing is difficult; it appears the new Pick book has them priced lower than what their actual market value is. True UNC notes are very scarce. "New" current market values are: Type A) VG-\$7, VF-\$15, XF-\$23, UNC-\$35. Type B) VG-\$5, VF-\$10, XF-\$20, UNC-\$30. The 3 rubel note is an odd denomination one doesn't normally see in world currency, and thus makes it an interesting collectible item.

NEWS

Next issue we will be giving the results of our Catalog of Early Lithuanian Coins I. Under the Grand Dukes, survey. Every LNA member received 2 copies. The first was to keep, and the second was to return to us, indicating the coins you have. Even if you have only one coin, we need to know! The LNA is depending upon you! Preliminary results show the K-7 (Jogaila) coins to be the most plentiful.

We have decided to purchase an LNA camera, as our membership overwhelmingly approves of it. This will help us tremendously with illustrations. We also plan on establishing a camera loan system for members wishing to use it.

Congratulations to LNA member Joan Irene Rapsus, who participated in National Coin Week by exhibiting and donating numismatic books at the Oak Lawn, IL. library. Her name was recently mentioned in Coin World.

LNA member Jonas Z. Augustinius' collection was recently exhibited in Chicago at the Youth Center for the Lith. World Congress.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US!

Continued from page 2...

In January 1978 I wrote to World Coin News to express my excitement about Lith. numismatics. After my letter was published in "letters to the editor," soon others began appearing from other Lith. collectors. One thought he was the only one who collected Lithuania!

Soon we all began writing each other, sharing information, according to the bits and pieces we knew. At this point we decided to form the LNA. Our first issue of The Knight appeared June-July 1978, 4 pages, 14 inches long. It was an instant "rallying cry" for Baltic collectors, and we soon had 100 charter members. As information poured in, we soon expanded to 6 pages. Then in June-July 1979 (Vol 2 No. 1), we settled on our permanent format, 8 pages, 11 inches.

From almost the very beginning, we gained an important member, Val Matelis, whose translation abilities and familiarity with Lithuanian history have been an extreme asset to us.

We began our English translation of Nepriklausomos Lietuvos Pinigai by Jonas K. Karys (1953), translated by Val Matelis, beginning with the October-November 1978 issue, and continuing in serial form until April-May 1980.

In the meantime, I volunteered myself as the numismatic curator at the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture. Soon a wealth of uncataloged material was discovered, mostly from the estate of the late numismatist, Dr. Alexander Račkus. Each box was a discovery in itself! The museum then financed the issuance of our custom LNA Lithuanian coin holders, to house the 14 coin circulation set. This was announced in April-May 1979 issue. The 100 holders soon sold out, and another 100 were made.

With all this excitement going on, we held our first LNA meeting December 10, 1978, at the New York International Numismatic Convention, with member Vince Alones and Robert Douchis as master of ceremonies. Dealer Karl Stephens and writer Dave Alexander were our first speakers. At the weekend convention, we passed out special Lithuanian coin trends (December 1978 issue). Our second meeting was held March 24, 1979 at the Chicago International Coin Fair, with myself in charge. Speakers were Stanley Balzekas, Jr., and Jonas Z. Augustinius. Our next meeting was held a year later at the 1980 CICF on June 1, with our fourth meeting March 15, 1981 at the CICF. In April 1982 we joined the American Numismatic Association, and held our fifth meeting, at the ANA convention in Boston on August 20. Vince Alones' presentation of Lithuanian banknote slides, attracted a huge crowd of at least 35 members & guests, our biggest yet!! We soon thereafter held our sixth meeting at the New York International show on Dec. 11, 1982.

Starting with the October-November 1980 issue, we began our historic translation in serial form of Ancient Lithuanian Currencies. This monumental work continued until August-September 1982.

Continued on page 8...

MEDALLION III—"UNION and WAR"

Face A—"UNION" In 1565, Augustus Sigmund, a Lithuanian nobleman who opposed the union of Lithuania and Poland, coined and circulated money with the inscription: "Qui habitat in coelis irridebit eos". (He who dwells in heaven will ridicule them). The text is taken from the Psalms of David.

The inscription at the head of the medallion is a favorite Polish proverb: "Wolni z wolnymi; Równi z równymi". (The free with the free; equals with equals). This phrase is divided by a mask which signifies the hypocrisy of the words.

At the foot of the medallion is a cat and a dog to represent the impossibility of the union.

Face B—"WAR" A Knight, the emblem of Lithuania, in combat with an Eagle, the emblem of Poland.

MEDALLION IV—

"REGAINING KLAIPEDA"

Face A—Inscription: "Kas mūsų—kova įgysim". (That which is ours—we will win back by conquest).

Face B—Inscription: "Kas iškovota—mylėt mokėsime". (That which we have regained—we will know how to cherish.)

MEDALLION V—

"VILNIUS in 1323 and VILNIUS in 1920"

Face A—A legend surrounds the founding of Vilnius in 1323. Gediminas, the Grand Duke of Lithuania, was hunting one day in the forests of Lithuania at the junction of the Vileika and Vilija rivers. While resting on a hillside, he saw in a dream an enormous iron wolf standing on a hillside and howling as though it were possessed of a hundred wolves within itself. On awaking, Gediminas related his dream to his attendants, who, however, could not interpret it for him. The high priest then explained the dream as follows: "The hill is the spot on which a large city will be built. The wolf, with a hundred howling wolves within itself, signifies that the glory of this city will be heard throughout the world." This interpretation pleased Gediminas; and here he built his castle.

The inscription on the medallion reads, "Taip Gediminas sapnavo". (This was Gediminas' dream).

Face B—Represents Vilnius in 1920, after the Poles seized the city by force.

The inscription reads, "Taip Gediminas nesapnavo". (This was not Gediminas' dream).

MEDALLION VI—"UNION DESIRED"

Represents Poland seeking union with Lithuania

the Second World War, by decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of Lithuania SSR (July 21, 1945), I was decorated with the title of Distinguished Artist of the Lithuanian SSR, and after several years (July 19, 1954), with the title of Peoples Artist of the Lithuanian SSR. That pleased me, for I saw how highly my creativity and modest efforts to serve my people were valued. My meetings and other contacts with the leading men of the government and party were always replete with that same feeling.

I remember well my conversation with the President of Lithuania's Supreme Soviet, Justas Paleckis soon after, in the summer of 1944, Kaunas was liberated from the hands of the Germans, and I returned here in the fall from Naudžiai.

"So now what? Petras Rimša is with us!" The President warmly welcomed me.

"And with whom could I be?" I answered. "Always with my people."

"I did not think otherwise," added Paleckis. "But it seems strange many patriots, or at least so it seems to me, deserted their native land together with the brawling hordes of Hitlerites."

We then mentioned a list of surnames, mostly cultural activists [No doubt Adomas Varnas, Adomas Galdikas, and others. Juozas Zikaras wished to leave, but he was unable to make it in time before the Soviet army suddenly advanced across Lithuania in 1944, and found himself caught on the wrong side of the line]. I even added:

"Propaganda misguided more than one."

And truly. In 1943, after the historical victory of the Soviet Army at Volgograd, an attack was launched against the Hitlerites on a broad front, and efforts were made to retrieve Soviet lands one after another. At that time an incursion was made into White Russia, as I recall. In Lithuania the Hitlerites became very nervous and began to spread the most peculiar rumors. [Notice the almost "devil's advocate" position Rimša takes here...] It was drummed up at that wherever the Red Army marches, there nothing remains alive: especially, it destroys men. In that mood, in the summer of 1944, this agitation caused many groups of unarmed civilians to leave White Russia for the West. For many days, caravan after caravan passed through Kaunas. Wornout, swooning, hopelessness-ridden poor people--misguided, and tricked, perhaps even forcibly driven. So it would be no surprise if people of lesser stamina would become unnerved even in Lithuania.

They were the days of frightful rumors...

Hitler's occupation---they were an endless dark night in our country. I could not create anything at all then. But the year after the war, my creative impulse was awakened. At first I recovered as a medalist; I was reborn. After a space of 15 years, I began to ponder what I should create afresh.

Our poets chanted of victory coming, and of the era of peace. This theme entranced me. And thus, in the year of victory over Hitler's Germany (1945), there was created my medal, named BELLUM (War). Its obverse pictured the chaos of war. From the lower cartouche bearing the inscription "Mars omnia devorat" (War destroys everything), smoke from an exploded grenade rises and various scenes of war's devastation are pictured. We see how the foundations of cultural buildings (the university, the theatre...) fall, with their collanades. In the middle, a ghost emerges, symbolizing man--the initiator of wars. At the top we see a recumbent dead bird (the German eagle), with a burst swastika. War with its devastation finally destroys its creator.

On the reverse I drew a picture of a peaceful time. From out of the bottom cartouche, bearing the inscription "Labor Omnia Creat" (Labor creates everything), a bud bursting sprout arises, as a symbol of new life. We see countrymen working in the fields, who

To be continued next issue....

WANT - FOR SALE ADS

The following Baltic military orders, medals & decorations are FOR SALE or TRADE. Make offer for any item. Will trade for other items from independent Estonia, Latvia, or Lithuania. If anyone has anyone spare ribbons for Baltic orders, I'm also interested. John P. Witter.

LITHUANIA. Order of Gediminas, Commander's (3rd class) neck badge, about EF, with a couple of very minor surface chips.

LATVIA. Order of the Bearslayer, 3rd class; nice example XF. (Rare. Seldom given out to non-Latvians excepting a few Lithuanians or Estonians.)

ESTONIA. Several items including Order of the Estonian Red Cross. Fire Service screw-back badge (ETL) by Roman Tavast, Tallinn. Estonian Scout badge, silver with Estonian eagle & coat of arms, with scout motto ALATI VALMIS. Other items, including a couple of miniatures. Cross of Liberty, 2nd class, 3rd grade (for bravery), hallmarked AT813 Tillander of Helsinki, medal of Liberty, both are XF.

FINLAND. Several, including Cross of Liberty w/swords, 4th class, 1941, EF. Cross of Liberty, civil, 3rd class, 1941 FDC.

SWEDEN. Order of the North Star, Commander's neck badge and also breast badge, both EF. Neck badge has box and breast badge has case, both by C.F. Carlman of Stockholm.

USSR. Order of the Red Banner, Order of the Red Banner of Labor, both EF and with numbers on reverse.

WANTED: A set of Eesti Entsüklopeedia I-VIII, Tartu, Loodus, 1932-1937.

John P. Witter. Salpa 23, Satomäki, 01370 Vantaa 37, FINLAND.

WANTED: Any Republic of Lithuania coins (Y-1-14) in Brilliant Uncirculated condition. Adolph V. Stankus, Jr. P.O. Box 3100, Redding, CA. 96049. (916) 221-3989

WANTED: Petras Rimša medals. After writing that lengthy article & all that research, I think I should have some in my own collection! Also,

FOR SALE: Vilnius Jewish first aid revenue stamps, 10 & 20 kop. set. \$6. 1912, shown is horse-drawn cart, Vytis, and Star of David. (Only 2 sets left). I also have several extra of the 20 kop. at \$3 each. FRANK PASSIC, 1320 E. 60th St. Apt. 3-P, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74105.

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MUSEUM ISSUES TOKEN



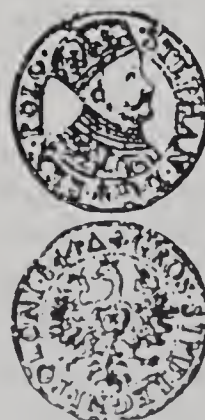
The Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture, 4012 Archer Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60632, is proud to announce the issuance of a commemorative wooden 2 inch 10 Litu to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the flight of noted Lithuanian aviators Steponas Darius and Stasys Girenas.

The token was designed by numismatic curator Frank Passic, with artwork by artist Michelle Kincaid. The obverse features the famous bust of the two flyers, adapted from sculptor's Bronius Pundzius' work. The legend reads, "STEPONAS DARIUS • STASYS GIRENAS • 10 DESIMTS LITU." The 10 Litu denomination was the highest denomination coin issued by the Republic of Lithuania (1936 and 1938).

The reverse features in the center the aviator's plane "LITUANICA." The top legend reads, "FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY 1933-1983," with "LIETUVA," meaning "Lithuania" "1983" below. The inscription "Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture" appears as the bottom legend.

Tokens are 75¢ each accompanied by a self stamped addressed legal size envelope. (S.A.S.E.).

[Editor's note: This normally would have been front page news, but our 5th anniversary issue crowded it out. I suggest ordering yours quickly, as the last wooden tokens soon sold out fast. Being an anniversary token, and with a very popular theme, they will sell out very fast indeed]



ANA LM #1776

BRUCE DONAHUE

Coins of

Lithuania and Poland

P. O. BOX 92

ACCORD, MASS. 02018

617-659-7777

FOR SALE: The following Baltic Banknotes:

LITHUANIA: 50 Centy, P-12, dated November 16, 1922. Reverse uniface SPECIMEN!!!!!! "Pavyzdys-bevertis" (Specimen--no value). Obverse shows background oval designs. A must for the advanced collector! \$270.00 Uncirculated.

LATVIA: 1 Rublis, P-1, 1919. AU. \$10
20 Latu, 1935, P-27. VF \$12.
1 Rublis Soviet, P-R1 UNC. \$3.
3 Rub. Soviet P-R2 1919 XF \$1.
ESTONIA: 5 Krooni 1929 P-63 VF \$7.00.

20 Krooni 1932 P-65 AU \$10.
10 Krooni 1937 P-67 XF \$10.
LITHUANIA: 50 Litų March (Kovo) 31, 1928. P-24. (Basanavičius). Very Fine. \$20.
100 Litų 3/31/28. P-25 Fine \$25.

E.G. Tamulevich, 11 Woodland Drive, Paxton, MASS. 01612.

WANTED: Lithuanian, Latvian, & Estonian paper currency, stocks, bonds, medals, tokens, military and fraternal decorations and medieval coins. George M. Daru, 38 N. Walnut St. Wilkes-Barre Twp, Pennsylvania 18702.

Want/For Sale ads are FREE to LNA members! List your items here!

Dealer Karl Stephens has been a long-time supporter of the LNA from the very beginning. He has regularly bought advertising space in each issue. Have you written him for his latest price list? He regularly carries Lithuanian coins in BU condition, plus patterns. He specializes in medieval coins, and has a nice selection to choose from. See his ad below and write him right away!



Dealer in Quality Rare Coins
Lithuanian & Polish
WRITE:

Karl Stephens, Inc.

Karl Stephens
President

Post Office Box 458 ANA 57209
Temple City, Ca 91780 213 445-8154

I read your very interesting article in the May issue of The Numismatist. It makes me want to go back to the Balzekas Museum for a second look at their display of medals & coins.

---Anne Fridala, IL.

I look forward to receiving my copy of The Knight, as I learn more about the Lithuanian way of life, and Lith. history. I make copies and send them to my relatives in Florida, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. They are not collectors but they enjoy reading it. Unfortunately, there are very few Lithuanians around where I live, so it is rather hard to keep up with the Lith. language. I did at one time speak Lith. rather fluently; in fact during World War II I did censor Lith. written mail in the Aleutian Islands. I am looking forward to the 5th anniversary issue. Keep up the good work.

---John W. Balchunis, VA.

I can't say I'm into Lith. numismatics, but I always enjoy your bulletin and look forward to it, and believe, you are doing a great amount to further Lithuanian numismatics. As far as I can tell by talking to my friends at Krause publications, Lithuania and the other Baltic countries will remain listed with Russia. Sorry about that, but they are stubborn about it.

---Paul Waichulaitis, WI.

I would like to see an embroidered blazer patch for LNA members. Design features could be submitted by other members for approval

---Edward D. Zemaitis, NY

You are doing a wonderful job. I greatly enjoy the Lithuanian history. My thanks and appreciation for all of you who are devoting so much of your time.

---Vincent Zemaitis, NY

Articles like Frank Passic's "The Medals of Petras Rimša" in The Numismatist add enormously to the esteem in which our country is regarded here. We are most fortunate in having two such dedicated workers as Passic and Douchis supporting The Knight and what it stands for. The interest the LNA has aroused in numismatic circles is outstanding and will continue to grow so long as these two gentlemen continue their work. It is alone in its ability to energize national enthusiasm and may well serve as the leader followed by other nationalities. Already, movement is seen among the Poles and Latvians to emulate our achievements.

---Val Matelis, FL

Keep it up! We need the LNA! May you keep growing in the future, I'd like to see articles written by members, maybe personal stories on how they got started collecting coins of the Baltic States. I started with a hoard of old coins, Lithuanian & other foreign, that my grandmother found.

---Ginger Rapsus, IL.

I am in favor of including numismatic news of Estonia and Latvia in The Knight. While the voice of the LNA speaks primarily for Lithuanian numismatics, of course, it would seem logical to provide some space for the small Baltic neighbors who have shared much of the fate of Lithuania through the last few centuries. This action would benefit all students of Baltic history and coinage. After all, "In Unity there is Strength," as the saying goes.

---Claus C. Kassel, Nevada.

8 BIRTHDAY

The LNA has had a remarkable effect on world numismatics, which has resulted in the adding of numerous patterns, test strikes, and other items to catalogs. However, one big controversy developed in August 1981 when Krause publications' Standard Catalog of World Coins removed Lithuania from the "L" section and placed it under "USSR." Although we were unsuccessful in persuading them to put Lithuania back where it belonged, our protest generated "hundreds" of protest letters to Krause publications. One even came from the noted paper money expert, Albert Pick, who insisted that Lithuania remain under the "L's" in his paper money catalog.

Beginning with the April-May 1981 issue, we began our continuing series on Lithuanian military orders & decorations, medals. Written by Henry L. Gaidis and Vincent Alones, the series still continues and has attracted lots of interest for this virgin field.

We have had two special "theme" issues: August-September 1979, in which we exposed the erroneous Baranauskas name concerning Victor David Brenner, and the October-November 1979 issue, on the 40th anniversary of the recapture of Vilnius from Poland. Our Feb-March 1983 issue featured a special insert catalog of early Lithuanian coins under the grand dukes: the first time something like this has ever been done.

The LNA could not be where it is today without the help of its members. We depend heavily upon information supplied by the membership. We know there are numerous collectors who haven't either heard of us, or joined the LNA. Collectors are located in Chicago, Boston, Australia, and other areas. What this means is, we need your help in contacting these collectors. We are especially concerned that we reach the "old-timers" from independent Lithuania era who came to the U.S. Many of these will be gone in the next 10 years. If you know of a Lithuanian collector, give them a copy of The Knight, and sign them up!

For me, it has been a very busy five years, but rewarding, as I have seen the science of Lithuanian numismatics grow leaps and bounds. As we all help out in supplying information and material, I predict an excellent future for our very special numismatic club.

LITHUANIAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

1. To bring together collectors of Lithuanian money, whether coins or currency, ancient or modern, in a common organization;
2. To provide an avenue (The Knight) to share numismatic knowledge with one another;
3. To inform members and educate them in detailed information heretofore unavailable in the English language, especially in the field of numismatics;
4. To advance the knowledge of the history and peoples of the Baltic States, particularly in the field of numismatics.

With these goals in mind, we begin our sixth year!

Frank Tassie

Frank Tassie
Editor, The Knight.

GOLD COINS!

In our Oct-Nov. '78 issue we featured an article concerning the special 1938 10 Litu Smetona commemorative coin, that was specially struck in GOLD and presented to President Smetona.

Now for the big announcement; this confirms rumors we have heard from several sources: In addition to a gold striking presented to Smetona, one was also presented to the coin's designer, Juozas Zikaras! This gold striking, cataloged as LNA-14b (KM-Fnl2), is inscribed on the edge, "VIENAS AUKSINIS DESIMTLITIS," meaning "One Gold Ten Litas."

The one presented to Smetona was brought here to the U.S. According to the story given to us, it was stolen by a New York coin dealer, who borrowed it on the pretense of only to "photograph" it, but then denied ever having the gold piece when Smetona had someone pick it up for him.

IN ADDITION to the 1938 gold strikings, Two 1936 Y-13 Vytautas the Great 10 Litu coins were specially struck in gold! One was presented to President Smetona, and the other to sculptor Zikaras! This is confirmed by the son of sculptor Zikaras, who stated that his father was greatly impressed with it! Imagine if you can the beauty of a gold Vytautas 10 Litu!! The whereabouts of these gold strikings are unknown; it is known that Zikaras hated the Russians and hid things from them as best as he could, before he committed suicide in 1944.

We have given the gold 1936 Vytautas 10 Litu strikings the LNA-13b catalog number, should any surface. We wrote former mint director Jonas K. Karys, and he did not deny the possibility that these existed, but his memory has failed could not remember.

ANA

Nancy Green, ANA librarian, has informed us that the library has assigned catalog numbers to our two Karys translations in their mail loan library. They are:

UF40.K3 1979 for Independent Lithuanian Money by Jonas K. Karys translated by Val Matelis.

JM95.K3 1980 for Ancient Lithuanian Currencies by Jonas K. Karys translated by Val Matelis.

Bridges Newsletter gives the latest news about Lithuania, Lithuanians, and events. Printed in the English language, it is very informative and educational at the same time. Subscription rate is \$5 for 11 issues, by writing: BRIDGES, 341 Highland Blvd, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11207. Write for a sample issue, and mention The Knight!

ORDER OF THE CROSS OF VYTIS 9.

By Vincent W. Alones & Henry L. Gaidis

In brief review, the Cross of Vytis was the first decoration awarded by the newly established Republic of Lithuania, and was instituted to honor its soldiers both officer and enlistedmen, for bravery in combat. As a result, the design for the decoration selected was a miniature state emblem and bore a pair of crossed swords. The early awarded decorations of the Cross of Vytis were made in a silver metal with a red enamel-inlayed Vytis shield. The decoration was originally issued in one grade (with swords), with three classes; later it was modified for presentation to civilian and military officers for merit in a non-combat situation (2nd grade, without swords).

On August 27, 1927, President Smetona signed the statute establishing the Cross of Vytis Committee which would henceforth be responsible for recommending individuals for this decoration. The statute set forth 135 ways individuals could be eligible. It also established a second grade to the decoration (without swords), in which the crossed swords were removed from behind the Vytis shield, and the oak leaves used to denote classes on the ribbon were replaced by a three armed star or pip. The second grade consisted of three classes, as had the original combat decoration.

The original first class decoration consisted of a cross decoration, hanging from a breast ribbon with two stars, and accompanied by a breast star. The second class decoration was identical to the first class, but without the breast star. The third class was identical to the second, but its ribbon bore only one star. The combat decoration was awarded to both officers and enlistedmen, while the merit (without swords) decoration was awarded only to officers and high ranking civilians.

With the establishment of the Order of Vytautas the Great, and the Order of Gediminas, the Cross of Vytis decoration was converted to an Order status. The avowed purpose of the conversion, besides its up-grading, was the eventual return of the Cross of Vytis to strictly a military decoration. The initial change-over however, allowed for retention of the second grade (non-combat, without swords) award by those who had already received it, but the statute also established that no future merit decorations would be awarded in the new Order status.

The new Order called for its awarding to officers only. Since the decoration had already been awarded to numerous enlistedmen and NCO's, it necessitated the further establishment of an honor medal for them. Unlike the round shape honor medals which accompany most orders of other nations, the honor medal for the Order of the Cross of Vytis retained its cross design. Though de facto an honor medal, it was never called that, but was known as the Cross of Vytis. Since this is confusing, we will use the term medal.

CONVERSION SYSTEM

Besides the two grades to the Order (with swords; without swords), the new decoration was awarded in five classes (where formerly there had been only three), with the medal of honor having three classes. An examination of the actual recipients of the old decoration by name, allows for a better understanding of the conversion system.

The only recipients of the old first grade, first class decorations, were President Smetona and General Zukauskas. Under the conversion system, they were the only recipients of the new first grade, first class Order. The new second and third class Order decorations were only awarded to Smetona. The 36 officers who had been previously awarded the old second class decoration, were converted to the new fourth class Order, and the 195 officers of the old third class decoration, were converted to the new fifth class Order.

The new first class Order was worn hanging from a breast sash accompanied by a corresponding breast star. The three pointed star appearing on the decoration ribbon, was replaced by an oak leaf branch when awarded for combat. The star remained on the non-combat (without swords) merit decorations. The second class Order was worn from a neck ribbon accompanied by a breast star, and the third class was worn from the neck, and there was no breast star. The fourth and fifth class decorations were to be worn on the breast, with classes being determined by one (fifth) or two (fourth) oak branches or stars on its ribbon.

The old decorations awarded to enlistedmen and NCO's were converted to honor medals, consisting of three classes: first--gold, second--silver, and third--bronze. There were no named recipients of the first class medal. The 59 enlistedmen recipients of the old second class decoration were converted to the new second class medal (silver), while the 1054 enlisted old third class decoration recipients converted to the new third class (bronze) medal cross.

Since the new Order was divided into officer and enlisted grades, a distinguishing change in the actual decoration had to be made. The new enlistedmen medals were awarded in gold, silver, and bronze, but the old officer decorations were made of just silver. So the new officer Order decorations were made in silver, but was now heavily enlaid with a white-trimmed black enamel cross. This has been previously described in The Knight.

Continued on next page...

10. VYTIS ORDER

As stated earlier, the old second grade (without swords) decoration recipients were converted to the new Order, but there was no future awarding after the initial conversion; it was phased out with the demise of the current holders. The second grade Order was without swords, and used the three pointed star in place of the oak leaves to determine grades.

The old second grade (without swords), first class decoration had only been awarded to one Lithuanian, Augustinas Voldemaras, the first Prime Minister of Lithuania. By 1930 however, Voldemaras had fallen into great disfavor with President Smetona, and in 1934 was sentenced to 12 years in prison following an attempted coup d'etat. This one awarding of the old first class second grade decoration was apparently stricken from the records, and no such conversion to the new Order therefore took place. However, the new Order second grade, first class was awarded to foreign diplomats (but no Lithuanians).

The only recipients of the second grade, second class old decorations were Generals Vladas Nagius-Nagavičius, and Peter Sniukata, senior military officers. These two decorations were converted to the new Order, second grade, fifth class level. Since there had never been an awarding of the second grade to an enlistedman, there was no need for the establishment of a medal without swords.

* * *

Next issue: The Independ. Medal. Hank & Vince have done a superb job for their pioneer work on the Cross of Vytis. We hope to someday picture a Cross without swords, and a certificate, when we locate either.

POLISH CLUB

LNA member Edward L. Hartfik, through the help of dealer Karl Stephens, is organizing a Polish Numismatic Association, very similar to our LNA.

He proposes a newsletter similar to The Knight, in the English language, as many Polish collectors have remained "out of it," due to the language barrier. In his letter, Hartfik writes, "So why not get together and share our interests? The Lithuanian collectors have done a nice job in putting together a publication, I think we could do likewise. ..This would be a quality publication with articles geared towards all levels of collectors and hopefully would cover the entire Polish numismatic time frame. I would like to get the first issue out before the end of the year. The costs would be held to \$10 a year."

Hartfik needs your input and suggestions, etc. This is for collectors of Polish numismatic items. If interested, write: Edward L. Hartfik, Box 12214, Hamtramck, Michigan 48212.

RENEW NOW



If the box at left is checked, you need to send in your renewal. Otherwise, this will be your last issue of The Knight.

NEWS

The controversy over the Standard Catalog of World Coins dumping the listings of the Baltic countries under "USSR" is continuing.

In recent issues of World Coin News, a couple of world coin dealers listed Estonian & Latvian coins under USSR in their advertisements.

Again, a round of protest letters have been appearing in WCN protesting these dealers' actions. The letter on top appeared in the May 24. This editor then wrote a letter, printed at right, which appeared in the June 7 issue.

We encourage our members and friends not only to write WCN and encourage them to put the Baltic countries back where they belong, but to write dealers who list Baltic coins under USSR, informing them that they have lost a sale.

This practice by dealers should be stopped before it spreads. We cannot allow this "trickle-down" effect of the SCWC's actions to continue.

To voice your opinion, write: World Coin News, Krause Publications, Iola, WI 54990.

We take the position that collectors should not buy Baltic coins that are listed under USSR.

Estonia insulted

The Estonian-Russian issue has been brought to light again. In a recent issue of World Coin News one advertiser has a 1929 Estonian coin listed as USSR.

We Estonians find this very insulting, as our country was an independent nation when our coins were struck. We are the only country which defeated the Russians in our fight for independence.

Eesti Poise

Bausman, Pa.

Lithuania in the alphabet

It appears the consequences of the Standard Catalog of World Coins dumping the coinage listings of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania under the USSR umbrella are now beginning to be felt in the marketplace. Unaware dealers are beginning to routinely list Baltic coins according to the SCWC.

The (catalog) is used almost universally. The result is two-fold: Baltic collectors for patriotic and logical reasons look under E or L to find the coins in ads they are looking for; if they're not listed there the dealer won't make a sale. Thus the catalog is creating confusion in the marketplace.

The second effect is upon dealers caught in the struggle. Those who list Baltic coins under USSR are likely to lose sales — and be given a lecture on Baltic political history as well. Listing Baltic coins under USSR is definitely not good public relations for a dealer.

We at the Lithuanian Numismatic Association take the position that the SCWC should move the Baltic states' coins back where logically they should be, and that collectors should not buy Baltic coins in ads where they're listed under the USSR. Since Krause Publications has received many protest letters, it would seem the appropriate thing to do is bow to collector interests rather than stonewalling.

Frank Passic

Tulsa, Oklahoma